

when they go to school. It happens here in America because we choose to let it happen.

We are not unlucky. This is purposeful. This is a choice made by the U.S. Senate to sit on our hands and do nothing while kids die.

It doesn't even involve any political risk. The changes we are talking about in order to make our schools safe places, they are supported by the vast majority of Americans, Republicans and Democrats. And yet the gun lobby and the gun industry is more important to half of the Members of the Senate than is the safety of our kids, and that is infuriating.

Make no mistake about it, there is a silent message of endorsement sent to would-be killers, sent to individuals whose brains are spiraling out of control when the highest levels of the U.S. Government does nothing, shooting after shooting. Somewhere in these broken brains, they have convinced themselves that they can right perceived wrongs by firing a gun into a crowd. And when Congress—when the highest, most important, most powerful leaders in the land do nothing, shooting after shooting, you can understand why those broken brains imply that as endorsement. We have become part of the problem. Our silence has become complicity.

And I am here to tell you that there is a very low likelihood that your child will die in a school shooting. It is still a very, very infrequent occurrence in this country, given the number of kids who walk into a school every day. But the very fact that every child fears for their life, the very fact that every parent thinks about this when they send their kid to school, that is both a moral and practical stain on this country because kids' brains can't learn when they fear for their lives. No parent should have to sit down and talk to their kid about why, even though you see this happen in Newtown and you see this happen in Parkland and you see this happen in Michigan and you see this happen in California, it won't happen to you, dear. Because when these kids see it on TV every single day, you can't blame them for coming to the conclusion that it may happen to them.

I remember watching on TV once a young woman in the aftermath of a school shooting. There are so many of them now that I can't even remember which one this was. And she said to the TV reporter who was interviewing her: I just assumed that it would happen at my school eventually.

What a sad state of affairs that this is what it has come to.

I am beyond my tipping point, but I needed to come to the floor today because having sat in that chair listening to my colleagues tell me how much they care about human life—well, you have an opportunity to do something about it. You have an opportunity to save lives right now. Kids that are walking into schools tomorrow need

you—need you—to step up and pass laws that are going to make sure that only responsible people own guns. And the guns that are used in these school shootings—the semiautomatic rifles, the AR-15 variants—they stay in the hands of law enforcement.

And even if you don't believe that those laws will have the practical consequence of stopping every school shooting, please acknowledge that there is a moral impact of the actions that we take. By signaling to everyone in this country—but in particular these individuals who are contemplating these evil actions—that we don't accept this level of carnage, there will be an impact. And I tell you that because I know history.

There are two massive declines in the murder rate in this country in the last 100 years. It is not coincidental to the 10-year period after the two most significant antigun violence measures passed by Congress.

The first big decline is in the late 1930s and 1940s, right after Congress passes its first bill regulating the possession of firearms in this country. The second big decline is in the 1990s and early 2000s right after Congress passes the universal background checks law and the ban on assault-style weapons.

That is not coincidental. It is because those laws had a practical effect on crime but also a moral effect as well. The proof is right there in front of you of what can happen, of how many lives can be saved if we stand up and act.

So, please, I beg my colleagues, if you are going to come down here and talk about the sanctity of life, explain to the American people why the gun lobby matters more than the safety of our children who are walking into school every day fearing for their life.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HASSAN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF NOVEMBER 8, 2021, AS "NATIONAL FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE CELEBRATION DAY"

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration and that the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 437.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 437) expressing support for the designation of November 8, 2021,

as "National First-Generation College Celebration Day".

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to; that the preamble be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 437) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of November 3, 2021, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions, which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 462, S. Res. 463, and S. Res. 464.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to; that the preambles be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions (S. Res. 462, S. Res. 463, and S. Res. 464) were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

MORNING BUSINESS

TRIBUTE TO KEVIN "ROWDY" MURPHY

Mr. COTTON. Madam President, I rise today to acknowledge and honor MAJ Kevin "Rowdy" Murphy for his dedicated service in the U.S. Air Force and in the Senate as part of the Legislative Defense Fellowship. Major Murphy joined my office in January of this year, where he has expertly served as a trusted adviser and critical member of my team. He is one of the Air Force's finest fighter pilots, having capably flown the F-15E Strike Eagle for the past decade and graduated from the distinguished Air Force Weapons School.

Rowdy served with distinction while assigned to my office. He was instrumental in bringing a partner fighter training mission to Ft. Smith, AR, he helped establish a Defense Department aviation safety council, and he designed legislative defenses against the threat of fiber optic cables from China.

While Major Murphy excelled at his legislative duties, he truly distinguished himself during the evacuation